

Speaking facades – 3D video projections at historical locations

After nightfall, visitors can immerse themselves in the events of 1989/90 at six festival locations, with large-scale **3D media installations** featuring historical film footage and impressive light and sound effects. This special media experience will bring the story of the Peaceful Revolution to life at the sites where it unfolded.

The media installations were developed over months of research, during which the team reviewed material from numerous archives, spoke with contemporary witnesses and conducted around one hundred interviews. With installations carefully crafted to reflect the story of each venue, the sites and buildings themselves become the narrators of the history of the Peaceful Revolution, complementing the open-air exhibitions with an extraordinary visual exploration of the events surrounding the fall of the Wall. On **Alexanderplatz**, for example, the installation offers a fresh perspective on the demonstration held there on 4 November 1989, when hundreds of thousands of people boldly defied the East German government to voice their wishes, hopes and demands. At the **Humboldt Forum**, the historical façade of the former East German parliament, the Palace of the Republic, will be visible again, as key events on the road to a democratic GDR are explored in another installation. Visitors to the site will be able to see how thousands of people demonstrated outside the building, while within the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and SED General Secretary Erich Honecker raised their glasses in salute to the 40th anniversary of the GDR.

At each of the sites, the installations are introduced by lighting effects and music, followed by historical footage and images recounting the events that unfolded there. This imagery is complemented by statements touching on issues and values that still matter today such as freedom, protest and courage. The scenes of jubilation on the night that the Berlin Wall came down lie at the emotional heart of this storytelling and are displayed simultaneously across all of the installations.

After nightfall, these **15-minute stories** will illuminate the festival venues and bring history to life at the Gethsemane Church, on the Alexander and Berolina buildings on Alexanderplatz, at the Europacenter on Kurfürstendamm, at the former Stasi headquarters and on the eastern façade of the Humboldt Forum on Schlossplatz. At the East Side Gallery, the installation will span around 100 metres of the former Wall facing the Spree.

Site-specific 3D video projections

Gethsemane Church

The video projections at the Gethsemane Church highlight the particular role of the church in the events of autumn 1989 as an important centre for communication and information-sharing as well as a meeting place for the opposition groups who courageously took a stand against injustice and for fundamental democratic rights. The installation offers insights into the history of the opposition movement and the scale of protests elsewhere in the GDR.

Alexanderplatz

At the scene of the largest demonstration in the history of the GDR – Alexanderplatz – an impressive media installation on the facade of the Alexanderhaus will highlight this important event. Hundreds of thousands of people gathered here on 4 November 1989 to demand a more democratic GDR. The square witnessed not only the protests of the Peaceful Revolution, but also the constant arrests and surveillance of people who did not conform to the system. The protesters used banners and posters to express their views; here, they symbolize the demands and aspirations of the people who took to the streets and their desire for change.

Kurfürstendamm/Europacenter:

The Europacenter is the only building in the former western part of the city to host a media installation as part of the anniversary celebrations. Here, the narrative focuses on the role of the West, evoking the splendour of the Ku'damm and its promise of happiness. The installation juxtaposes the division between East and West Berlin with the scenes of joy that followed the opening of the Wall.

The former Stasi headquarters

The fear, powerlessness, and anxiety experienced by the victims of the Stasi's surveillance regime in the German Democratic Republic is conveyed in sound and lighting effects at the former Stasi headquarters. The installation also shows how this suffering drove people to attempt to escape and provoked outrage, rebellion and, ultimately, the demand for public access to the Stasi's files.

Schlossplatz/Humboldt-Forum

The installation at the Humboldt Forum highlights the way in which the Peaceful Revolution paved the way for political self-determination and liberation. The Schlossplatz represents one of the greatest successes of the Peaceful Revolution: the first democratic elections in the history of the GDR marked the demise of the dictatorship.

East Side Gallery

The 3D video projection spanning roughly 100 metres at the East Side Gallery tells the story of the Wall as a symbol of terror and highlights the importance of the site's artistic appropriation both before and after the fall of the Wall. Just one week after the fall of the Wall on 9 November 1989, artists based in Berlin put their creativity to work and began preparations to transform this “Edifice of Inhumanity” into a “Structure against Inhumanity”.

About Urbanscreen

URBANSCREEN is an internationally active design-studio for cross-disciplinary media installations based in Bremen, Germany. For over a decade, Urbanscreen has developed complex media concepts for public spaces with an interdisciplinary team of professionals from the fields of architecture, media art, set design, music and technology. Previous sites of Urbanscreen locations include the Sydney Opera House, Rice University in Houston, Texas, the residence of the German Ambassador in Washington, D.C. and the Gallery of Contemporary Art (*Galerie der Gegenwart*) in Hamburg.

The 3D video projections were realized by Kulturprojekte Berlin with URBANSCREEN.

For further information and images for download, please see www.mauerfall30.berlin.

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